

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2523

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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TAGS: AORG, UN

SUBJ: GENEVA GROUP

REF: GENEVA 7436

THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT WORKING PAPER FOR
OCTOBER 6 GG-CL MEETING: BEGIN TEXT

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WORKING PAPER

(THE TEXT OF ANY SUCH STATEMENT AS THAT SUGGESTED BELOW WOULD ONLY BE FINALISED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSIONS IN THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING. THE PRESENT DRAFT IS NOT INTENDED TO PREJUDGE THOSE DISCUSSIONS IN ANY WAY; ITS PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE A FOCUS FOR DISCUSSION AND TO SUGGEST HOW THE ITEMS ON THE AGENDA INTER RELATE. ALL DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA HAVE RESERVED THE POSITION OF THEIR AUTHORITIES ON THE DETAILED CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT.)

UN EXPENDITURE

(OUTLINE OF A POSSIBLE STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC USE BY THE GENEVA GROUP- OR BY MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP INDIVIDUALLY)

1. MUCH THOUGHT IS AT PRESENT BEING GIVEN TO THE FUTURE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. THIS HAS LED, FOR INSTANCE, TO THE SETTING UP OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SECTORS OF THE UN SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE DIFFERING VIEWS ON THE COURSE THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN, IT IS CLEAR THAT ALL CONCERNED ARE MOTIVATED BY THE SAME WISH: TO MAKE OF THE UNITED NATIONS THE MOST EFFECTIVE INSTRUMENT POSSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS FOUNDERS' IDEALS AND FOR THE SERVICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE. THESE OBJECTIVES ARE SHARED BY THE GOVERNMENTS WHICH BELONG TO THE GENEVA GROUP.#

2. IT IS WITH CONSIDERABLE CONCERN THEREFORE THAT THOSE GOVERNMENTS HAVE NOTED THE GROWING BUDGETARY PROBLEMS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. EACH YEAR THE ORGANISATION AND ITS AGENCIES EXPERIENCE GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN BALANCING THEIR BUDGETS; EACH YEAR THEY SUBMIT EVER LARGER BUDGETARY PROPOSALS. THE RATE OF BUDGETARY ESCALATION HAS NOW REACHED LEVELS WHICH, WERE THEY TO BE MAINTAINED, WOULD INEVITABLY FACE THE MAIN CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES WITH GRAVE PROBLEMS.

3. THE MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP ARE CONSCIOUS THAT THE ESCALATION OF BUDGETS IS, IN PART, THE RESULT OF FACTORS (SUCH AS INFLATION AND CURRENCY INSTABILITY) WHICH ARE BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE UNITED NATIONS. BUT THEY DO NOT REGARD THESE FACTORS AS SUFFICIENT JUSTIFICATION FOR THE PRESENT TREND. THEY BELIEVE THAT CORRECTIVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTION IS POSSIBLE AND THAT IT MUST BE TAKEN IF THE ABILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO CARRY ON ITS TASK IS TO BE SAFEGUARDED.

4. THE MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP ARE ANXIOUS TO SECURE INCREASED COST-EFFECTIVENESS IN THE FUNCTIONING OF THE UN SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. AMONG THE FACTORS WHICH WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS THEY WOULD INCLUDE:- A MORE SELECTIVE APPROACH TO PROGRAMMING; A GREATER EFFORT AT CO-ORDINATION AND THE AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION;

A MORE RIGOROUS APPLICATION OF EXISTING BUDGETARY PROCEDURES; A STRIC

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TER OBSERVANCE OF PRESENT RULES; A RATIONAL SOLUTION TO THE QUESTION OF PAY SCALES; AND INCREASED OVERALL OPERATING EFFICIENCY, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION OF A REDUCTION IN STAFFING LEVELS. OUR GOVERNMENTS ARE WILLING, AND INDEED EAGER, TO JOIN IN AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE THESE OBJECTIVES. THEY RECOGNIZE OF COURSE THAT THE MAIN RESPONSIBILITY LIES, AND MUST CONTINUE TO LIE, WITH THE PERMANENT STAFFS OF THE ORGANISATION AND OF THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES.

5. IN THE SAME CONNECTION, THE MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP SYMPATHISE WITH THE VIEWS OF THOSE WHO CONSIDER THAT A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF UN EXPENDITURE SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO ADMINISTRATIVE, HEADQUARTERS AND CONFERENCE COSTS AND A GREATER PERCENTAGE SPENT IN THE FIELD. THEY ARE WILLING TO CONSIDER REALISTIC AND CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES IN THIS SENSE.

6. HOWEVER, THE MEMBERS OF THE GENEVA GROUP DO NOT BELIEVE THAT EFFORTS TO CO-ORDINATE OR REDIRECT UN EXPENDITURE WILL ALONE SUFFICE TO CONTAIN THE PROBLEM OF ESCALATING BUDGETS. THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE MAIN CONTRIBUTING NATIONS ARE NOT UNLIMITED. THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORS CANNOT INDEFINITELY ACCEPT ANNUAL OR BIENNIAL INCREASES IN THE BUDGETS OF THE UN AND OF THE SPECIALISED AGENCIES ON THE SCALE WHICH HAS LATELY BECOME TYPICAL. THEY CONSIDER THEREFORE THAT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF THE UN SYSTEM MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A DETERMINATION ON THE PART OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE WITHIN THE SYSTEM TO PRESENT, AND A WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE UN MEMBERSHIP AS A WHOLE TO ACCEPT, BUDGETS WHOSE YEAR-ON-YEAR INCREASE FALLS WITHIN REASONABLE LIMITS. IF BUDGETARY PROPOSALS CONTINUE TO BE ADVANCED WHICH IGNORE THE OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE MAIN CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES, THE GOVERNMENTS OF THOSE COUNTRIES ARE BOUND TO REACT UNFAVOURABLY. THIS CAN ONLY HAVE DAMAGING CONSEQUENCES FOR THE UN SYSTEM AND FOR ITS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TURE.

7. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THIS STATEMENT, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENTS BELONGING TO THE GENEVA GROUP WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO JOIN FORTHWITH IN AN INTENSIVE PROCESS OF REVIEW AND CONSULTATION OF THE BUDGETARY PROBLEMS OF THE UN. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SUCH A PROCESS MIGHT INVOLVE BOTH THE PERMANENT STAFFS OF THE ORGANISATION AND THE AGENCIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER MEMBER STATES. THE CONSULTATION COULD TAKE PLACE BOTH WITHIN THE REGULAR MACHINERY OF THE ORGANISATION AND, IF APPROPRIATE, OUTSIDE IT. GIVEN THE COMMITMENT TO THE IDEALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH ALL ITS MEMBERS SHARE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES CAN AND WILL BE OVERCOME.

REFERENCES TO GHE -GENEVA GROUP" ARE INCLUDED FOR DRAFTING

CONVENIENCE ONLY: THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE DELETED IN THE
FINAL TEXT OF ANY STATEMENT FOR PUBLIC USE. END TEXTCATTO

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